

Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

389.8

F73

Reserves

FOOD PRICE

LIBRARY
CURRENT SERIAL RECORD

DEC 1 1960

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

A summary of the food outlook especially
designed to give maximum advance information
to food editors to help them plan food features.

U. S. Department of Agriculture
Agricultural Marketing Service

October 27, 1960
F P - 42

MEAT.....Production of red meat in the July-September quarter ran about 3% larger than in that period last year. In the final quarter, though, production will be somewhat below last fall. Supplies of red meat, per person, for the entire year are estimated about one pound larger than last year, since around 4 pounds less pork per person more than offsets larger supplies of beef and other meats.

Beef.....So far slaughter cattle has been about a tenth greater than last year, although average weights run a little lighter. Grass cattle slaughter will probably be significantly larger but marketings of fed cattle may not show much gain over a year earlier. Marketings planned in November and December this year were 3% larger than in these same months in 1959.

Pork.....Hog slaughter will be noticeably smaller this fall than last, since March-May farrowings, which provide the bulk of fall slaughter supplies, ran 13% below a year earlier.

Lamb.....Lamb and sheep slaughter in the final quarter of the year often runs near the same level as in July-September, and if this proves true this year, slaughter will be moderately larger this fall, compared with a year earlier.

POULTRY:

Broiler...Recent chick placements, 15 to 20% above last year's level, point to proportionately large marketings in late November and December.

Turkeys...Off-the-farm marketings, on a tonnage basis, in November and December are expected to be smaller than last year. October 1 cold storage holdings, estimated at 184 million pounds, ran 49 million pounds greater than a year earlier, and were the highest of record for that date.

Eggs.....The Nation's egg-laying flock on October 1 totaled 289 million birds, a decrease of 5% from 1959 levels. And the 205 million pullets on hand at that time were 11% below a year earlier.

DAIRY.....Milk output since the month of May has been seasonally declining, and will reach its low point in November. But in most months of this year production has been slightly larger than in 1959. Total milk production will exceed 1959 levels, although it is not expected to equal the previous high of 125.9 billion pounds rung up in 1957.

FRUITS:

Citrus....The U.S. crop of Early and Mid-Season oranges in the 1960-61 season is estimated at 63,800,000 boxes--2% below the previous crop but also 2% above average. Florida production is forecast at 50-1/2 million boxes--3-1/2 million boxes of Temples and 47 million boxes of Other Early and Mid-Season oranges. In spite of considerable damage from Hurricane Donna, that's 3% above last season's production. California Navel are estimated at 11 million boxes, 1% less than a year ago. Florida's Valencia crop is forecast at 40 million boxes, or 6% below the previous season, making Florida's all-orange production at 90-1/2 million boxes down 1%. Tangerines in Florida are estimated at 4-1/5 million boxes--a full 50% above last season.

U.S. grapefruit production is placed at 40,400,000 boxes--very slightly above last year but 2% below average. Florida's estimated 30 million boxes of grapefruit includes 18-1/2 million boxes of Seedless. Florida limes suffered hurricane damage, too, and the forecast is now for a crop of 280,000 boxes, as against earlier estimates of a 340,000-box crop. Florida tangelos are forecast at 500,000 boxes, 9% below 1959. Arizona's lemon output is forecast at 680,000 boxes--40% below a year ago. Frozen orange concentrate holdings on October 1 were 25 million gallons, nearly a fifth below stocks on October 1, 1959, and 3% less than average.

Deciduous.....Estimates for production of apples, pears, grapes, and plums turned downward in September and deciduous fruit output is now placed at 8% smaller than last year. The apple crop is 12% smaller than the previous above-average crop. The pear crop is about 13% below a year earlier, grapes about 4% less. But the 1960 cranberry crop is breaking all records, with total output estimated at 1,315,500 barrels--about 6% larger than last year.

Dried Prunes....California's crop on October 1 was estimated at 138,000 tons--dried basis--which is 1,000 tons below last year.

Dates.....Total marketable supplies of California dates probably are about as large as last year's supply.

Frozen Fruits...October 1 frozen fruit holdings were nearly 513 million pounds--some 16 million pounds above a year ago.

NUTS.....This year's pecan crop is estimated at 185,850,000 pounds--30% larger than in 1959 and nearly a fourth above average. Walnuts, estimated at 72,300 tons, run 16% larger than last year but 4% below average. Almonds, placed at 52,000 tons, are 37% smaller than the 1959 output, but 31% above average. Filberts, at 8,240 tons, run 18% below last year's crop, but 3% above average. October 1 peanut crop estimate is 1,732 million pounds, with a record yield of 1,239 pounds to the acre.

VEGETABLES:

Fresh.....Fall vegetable production is expected to be 5% larger than last year, but 1% below average. Crops of cabbage, cauliflower, and broccoli will be considerably greater than last year, while slightly larger crops of celery and cucumbers are forecast. Spinach is expected to be the same as last year. Prospects for other fall vegetables are for smaller output, with largest declines in lettuce and carrots.

Processed.....Prospective production of 8 important vegetables for processing runs 5% ahead of a year earlier and 11% above average. Increases over last year are indicated for green lima beans, 23%; snap beans, 16%; beets for canning, 3%; contracted kraut cabbage, 30%; and tomatoes, 11%. Declines in production, compared with last year, are sweet corn, 9%; green peas, 8%, and winter and spring spinach, 1%.

Frozen.....Holdings of frozen vegetables on October 1 totaled nearly 922 million pounds--down about 3 million pounds from a year ago.

Potatoes and....Over the next few months available supplies of potatoes will be slightly larger than a year ago. The fall crop, estimated at nearly 171 million hundredweight, is about 4% larger than in 1959. Supplies of sweet potatoes available into mid-1961 will be considerably smaller than a year earlier.

The Plentiful Foods Program

The Agricultural Marketing Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, through its Plentiful Foods Program, is cooperating in these food campaigns:

CRANBERRY INDUSTRY PROMOTION. October - January

KRAUT, PORK 'n APPLE DINNER SEASON. . . Through November 30